

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/730,066

Examiner

Prabodh M Dharia

Applicant(s)

HEMIA ET AL.

Art Unit

2673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07-20-2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12-05-00, 05-14-01, 03-01-02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Art Unit: 2673

1. **Status:** Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted June 16, 2004 under reconsideration, which, have been placed of record in the file. Claims 1-18 are pending in this office action.

2. Claims 1-18 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

an electronic input device comprising: a flexible and compactable input means for receiving user input; and a housing defining a space for accommodating said flexible and compactable input means, wherein: the electronic input device has a first state, a second state and third state; and wherein the electronic input device adopts a closed configuration in the first state, adopts a partly opened configuration in the second state, and adopts a fully opened configuration in the third state and wherein the flexible and compactable input means adopts a compacted spatial configuration in the first state and in the second state and adopts an fully extended spatial configuration in the third state and wherein the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the first state into the second state by an opening movement of a first housing portion of the electronic input device in relation to a second housing portion of the electronic input device in a first direction, and the electronic input device is configured to be moved from the second state into the third state by a pulling movement of a third housing portion of the electronic input device in relation to a fourth housing portion of the electronic input device in a second direction being different than the first direction, and wherein the first state and in the second state the flexible and compactable input means has been retracted into the housing and the functionality of the

Art Unit: 2673

flexible and compactable input means is unavailable for a user, and wherein the third state the flexible and compactable input means has been extracted from the housing by said pulling movement and the functionality of the flexible and compactable input means is available for a user, and wherein in the second state at least part of the functionality of the electronic input device is available for a user, and in the third state the available functionality of the electronic input device is extended.

The cited references fail to either anticipate individually or render obviousness individually as well as in combination above under lined bold claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prabodh M Dharia whose telephone number is 703-605-1231. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM to 5PM.
5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on 703-3054938. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2673

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

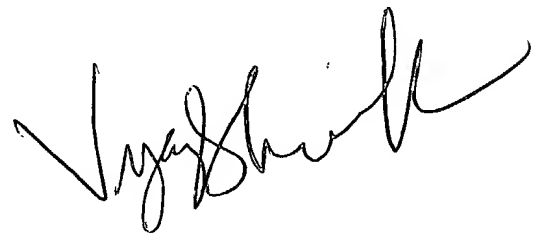
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

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07-20-2004



VIJAY SHANKAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER